





269 **Curious.**—The UNIVERSAL DICTIONARY for taking alive or destroying RATS and MICE by a method hitherto unattempted, by Thomas Swaine of Greenwich, *Rat-catcher to His Majesty's Royal Navy*, with a list of Men-of-War and the number of Rats caught therein, 12mo, *old calf*, 6s 1783

Wm. Swaine Esq. April 1782.

To William Samuel Parkyn

AR. CA

AR. VA.

Chief Master at The Lizard
Cornwall

Lord of Rats, Dogs, Battered
Gipsies
(and his wife)

This book is presented in memory
of many rats and several dogs
by G. V. YULE

Yemas 1928

THE
Universal Directory,
&c.

THE UNIVERSAL

DIRECTORY

F O R

Taking alive, or Destroying,

RATS AND MICE,

By a Method hitherto unattempted,

A N D

Calculated as well for the Use of SHIPS
and HOUSES, as that of FARMERS
and GARDENERS.

B Y

THOMAS SWAINE,

OF GREENWICH, KENT,

Ratcatcher to his Majesty's Royal Navy,
Victualling-Offices, &c.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the A U T H O R ;

And sold by J. BEW, No. 28, Pater-Noster-Row.

MDCCLXXXIII.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IT may be necessary to say a word or two by way of apology for the price of this little book, which, no doubt, will appear great beyond measure, if regard be had only to its bulk. But the Author hopes more liberally of his purchasers, — that they will form their judgment of it from its contents ; and these, he flatters himself, are such as will conduce to their essential benefit and advantage. He sells them, not merely a book, but his art, which in the following pages is faithfully disclosed ; a step he has been induced to take, from the consideration of the infirmities he finds advancing upon him : and as the consequences of it will
be

ADVERTISEMENT.

be the certain decrease of his future employment, he presumes that they will not think the price affixed to this little publication an unreasonable compensation for the loss he is about to sustain.

I N.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Introduction — — — —	i
Account of the Black Rat — —	5
Water Rat — —	10
Norway Rat — —	14
House Mouse — —	25
Field Mouse — —	7
The other Species of Mice — —	29
Directions for using SWAINE'S PASTE in	
Ships — — —	31
———— for destroying the Black Rat	37
Water Rat	41
———— for destroying the Norway Rat	
in Dwelling-Houses	43
Barns —	45
Stables —	47
Fowl-Houses	48
Cow-Houses	49
Hog-Styes	51
Stacks of Corn	52
———— for taking the House Mouse	55
Field Mouse	60
Rats —	63
ORIGINAL RECEIPT for making	
SWAINE'S PASTE — —	68
SWAINE'S PASTE highly beneficial in	
Gardens — —	72
Sugar Plantations	73
Farms — —	80
Number of Rats destroyed by it in the	
Royal Navy —	75-79

INTRODUCTION.

HOWEVER trifling and contemptible the following Treatise may appear to some persons, the Author flatters himself, that, notwithstanding the meanness of the subject, it will be productive of great public utility. Many ingenious writers have distinguished

B them-

ii INTRODUCTION.

themselves in treating of that noble and useful animal the horse, of the method of breeding horned cattle, sheep, and other animals serviceable to mankind ; this little work, on the contrary, regards those animals which are noxious to the community, describing their wiliness and sagacity, and the methods they take as well for procuring food as preserving

ing

INTRODUCTION. iii

ing themselves from danger.

The research may perhaps give the reader much satisfaction ; since the infinite wisdom of the great Creator is as conspicuous in a mole as in a camel, in an ant as in a lion.

However, if the directions contained in the following little Treatise should be found to answer the purposes for which they are given, the

iv INTRODUCTION.

utmost ambition and wishes of the Author will be gratified in the attainment of the end he aims at, namely, the general good and advantage of the community.

THE

THE UNIVERSAL
DIRECTORY.

The BLACK RAT.

THIS animal is the old genuine English House Rat ; for no other was known in and about houses for many ages in this country.

The Rats of this species differ in many particulars from the Norway Rats: they do not, like those, burrow and run into shores, but chiefly lie in cielings and wainfcots in dwelling - houses, and in out-houses under the ridge-tiles and behind the rafters, and run along the side-plates. Their numbers, however, are greatly diminished to what
they

they were formerly, not many of them being now left ; for the Norway Rats drive them out, and kill them wherever they can come at them. As a proof of this, often when I have been exercising my employment at gentlemen's houses, and when on the night appointed for catching I have set my traps as usual, in the lower part of the house and

in the cellars I have caught the Norway Rats, but in the upper part nothing but the Black Rats : I then have put them together in a cage to keep them alive till the morning, that the gentlemen of the house might see them, when the Norway Rats have killed the Black Rats before my face.

These vermin are not near so bold, nor will they feed as
the

the Norway Rats. When you are troubled with any of them, you must find out their runs ; which you may do very easily ; for if you look up at the side-plates and beams of the building, you will perceive the same quite black where they run along. Here lay their bait, according to the Directions for the Black Rat.

The

The WATER RAT.

THESE Vermin somewhat resemble the Norway Rats, but are smaller, have shorter noses, and rounder heads. They lie always by the water-side, and feed chiefly on grass and vegetables, eating neither
flesh

flesh nor corn ; but they will devour green pease and beans when in season, flower-roots, &c. if there are any growing near the ditches where they lie. Otherwise, they do not much mischief, except in making holes in banks and spoiling fences. They make kennels or holes by the sides of the ditches very much resembling those of the Otter ;

for

for they have one way out by the water, and another by land, in order to escape from their enemies whichever way they are pursued.

The method of destroying these vermin is shewn in the Directions for the Water Rat. You may take them another way. Get small steel traps, and put them in their runs even with the surface of the

the

the ground, and covered
over very nicely with the
mould.

The

The NORWAY RAT.

THIS species is called in many places the Hanover Rat, but was nevertheless brought to England originally from Norway in ships trading from that country.

There

There are very few buildings out of the city of London, that are not pestered with these Rats. In order to get rid of them, you must carefully observe what parts of the building they frequent; examine the sewers or shores, which they will find their way up where there is no grate; and, though there be a grate, they will gnaw through a soft brick,

or

or scratch the dirt out by the side of the shore into it, and there lie dry, to the great detriment of it, and oftentimes the stopping it up. In winter, if there are any hog-styes where hogs are fattening, the Rats which are about the building, without doors, will repair thither. They are also very apt to get under the floors, which is very injurious to houses ;

ses ; and they will likewise get behind wainscots, and in cielings, making there a very disagreeable noise. It is necessary, therefore, to observe where they go in and out ; for some way or other they must have, as they cannot long remain under cover without food and water. And for the better discovery of their routs, sift some sand about, and upon

C the

the passing of any of them you will easily see which way they go. This is an infallible method to detect these vermin. Sometimes they will lie out in the fields and hedges, as long as any corn remains upon the ground. When the cold weather comes on, mind your wheat-ricks, taking care that you set nothing against or under the same to assist them
in

in getting up the stands.—

In the Directions you will find a method to destroy them.

I hope it will not be thought impertinent here to add the following observations concerning the Black and the Norway Rats.

It is most likely, that, when the Norway Rats first laid siege to this kingdom, they landed in or near the city of London,

C 2 from

from the shipping in the river ;
 but, there finding a greater
 number of the Black tribe
 than they were able to engage,
 were forced to disperse them-
 selves into the different coun-
 ties, where they have had
 great success in killing and de-
 stroying their antagonists the
 Black Rats. I have travelled,
 pursuing my employment, 25
 years through the following
 counties,

counties, viz. Berkshire (where I was born), Wiltshire, Hampshire, Surry, Suffex, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Middlesex, and Kent (where I now reside), in all which counties I never found the Black Rat, except in Bucks and Middlesex ; and in Bucks only some few of them at

High Wycomb, about ten years ago. But, what is very singular, within the city of London there are very few of the Norway Rats to be found, but almost every where the Black Rats. Hence I am of opinion, that the Norway Rats have destroyed the Black Rats in almost all the above-mentioned counties, but that within the city of London the

Black

Black Rats may be said still to be masters ; and, having withstood their enemies and prolonged the siege for so many years, they may be likely to hold it another century, unless taken by storm. — I notice the above as, at least, new to the reader.

Having now sufficiently treated of the Rats which

C 4 annoy

annoy this country ; I shall
proceed to speak of the several
species of Mice found in it.

The

The HOUSE MOUSE.

TH E S E are nasty little vermin, well known, and so nauseous, that wherever they come, either in the pantry or larder, you may easily discover it by the disagreeable smell they leave behind them. They
are

are very troublesome in dairies, where they will skim the milk, and are mischievous in other instances, of which no mention needs here be made.——

In the Directions you will find a proper method of taking this Mouse without poison or trap.

The

The FIELD MOUSE.

THIS is a larger Mouse than the former, being the largest of the Mouse kind, with a reddish back, and a good deal of white under the belly. Mice of this species abound in gardens, and frequently

quently swarm in prodigious numbers in the fields. They will eat both corn and flesh, as either comes in their way. In winter, being driven from the fields by extremity of hunger, they will come into houses at sink-holes, and get into the pantries, larders, dairies, where they will prove very troublesome and pernicious. In spring they will
get

get into the gardens, and eat whole rows or drills of pease after they are set.

An infallible method to take this Mouse you will find in the Directions.

N. B. There are five other species of mice, viz. the Red Shrew Mouse and the Black Shrew Mouse, the Grass Mouse, the Dormouse, and the Bat : but these being
harm-

harmless and inoffensive little animals, I shall devise nothing to their destruction.

Now, it is my sincere wish that every one who has possession of this book may carefully and strictly observe the following Directions.

DIREC-

DIRECTIONS

FOR

Using SWAINE'S PASTE

in SHIPS.

BREAK pieces of the ball, the size of a small nut, and lay them on the transoms and breast-hooks, which are the places where the Rats chiefly resort. Lay 10 or 12 bits on each hook and transom ;

form ; and observe, when you drop them from your hand, to give each a squeeze into smaller bits, in form of a train, each small bit seven or eight inches apart. If there are any casks, stone ballast, or lumber wood, in the hold, drop here and there a bit between the casks, and among the wood, where you see they have been. If you see any holes in the lining

lining in the hold, drop a bit into each hole, which will run down between the timbers, where their nests generally are. There is not the least necessity to put any in either of the cabins, the lockers, or between decks, as the hold, if properly baited, (to do which will require at least two hours,) is fully sufficient. Observe that your

D hands

hands are quite clean from tar or sweat; for the Rats will not touch it, if there is the least smell of either. Be careful also to wash your hands very clean when you have done, lest any of the paste stick to your fingers, which may be attended with bad consequences. When you have finished laying the paste in the hold, lay over the hatches,

hatches, and don't suffer any body to go into the hold till the next morning, and the quieter the ship is kept the better. If these Directions are properly followed, there will not be one Rat left alive in the ship.

N. B. The paste that is left must be tied up very close, and kept dry in a chest.

D 2

And

And as it is customary to have boys on board, please to be cautious in letting them make any use of it, and to keep them out of the hold when the preparation is laid ; otherwise, being poisonous, it may be of fatal consequences to them.

DIREC-

DIRECTIONS

FOR USING

SWAINE'S PASTE for destroying the BLACK RAT.

OBSERVE well your cellars and wine-vaults, or any lumber - place below stairs, where you will frequently find this Rat behind the casks; also in the wine-bins,

D 3 and

and on the shelves leading to the cieling. Here pinch bits of the ball, and lay behind the casks and on the shelves they haunt, which you may easily discover, being swept clean by the tails of the Rats in their frequent running over the same: I say, here lay a few bits, squeezing them into smaller bits, in form of a train, which prevents the

Rats

Rats from carrying all away at once. The next morning, looking narrowly on the ground, by the casks, and on the shelves, you will find these Rats dead, and should throw them down the vault.

N. B. I once picked up, at
 a carcase butcher's in
 Newgate Market, 57 of
 D 4 these

(40)

these Rats within the
hour, even in the day-
time.

DIREC-

DIRECTIONS

FOR USING

SWAINE'S PASTE for the
WATER RAT.

OBSERVE to make choice of a fine dry day for destroying these Rats ; for if it rains, it will spoil the paste. Get some tileshods, and place them in or near the holes, squeezing a bit on every tile. You will
often.

often find their runs in the long grass, in each of which runs put also a tile, and on that a bit of paste, as before mentioned. Be careful to let no ducks be in the pond or ditch; for if they pick up the paste, it will kill them.

D I R E C T I O N S

FOR THE

N O R W A Y R A T

I N D W E L L I N G - H O U S E S .

TAKE the spoon which I shall give to every customer who buys this book ; take also a stick about 14 inches long, and with a knife make it fit the socket of the spoon :
then

then take and pinch a bit of the ball with your finger and thumb, the size of a small nut, and giving it a little squeeze, put it into the spoon, one bit in each hole only. The giving it a squeeze renders it incapable of being carried away all at once. Now taking the stick in your hand, push as far as the hole will admit, then give the spoon a turn, and

and let the paste lie. This must be done on the ground floor : there is not the least necessity of baiting any where up stairs; for if the lower part of the house is properly done, it will be quite sufficient.

In the BARN.

First take a survey all round the outside ; and if you
can

can see any holes there, make use of your spoon and the paste as in other places. But observe that the barn be full of corn or straw, lest it fall down to prejudice the fowls, which often go into an empty barn. Upon going into the inside, if there be any corn, get up the mow, and there search thoroughly all round ; and on discovering the runs and
haunts

haunts of the Rats, take a bit of the paste, and lay it where you see they come : next, examine the floor, and if there are any holes under it, make use of the spoon, in the manner already described.

In the STABLES.

Observe well your corn-bin, and, if moveable, turn it on
one

one side, and look under the bottom for their runs ; where, if you find any, lay six or seven bits of the paste, and then place the bin exactly as it stood before. This is sufficient for the Stable.

In the FOWL HOUSES.

Here use your spoon, and push the paste far into the
holes ;

holes ; otherwise the fowls, having long necks, will pick it out, if they can see any.— But to be more cautious, put a brick in or over each hole.

In the Cow-HOUSE.

As it is frequent to have the cows on one side, and calf-pens on the other, and as the place where the calves lie is

E gene-

generally hollow from the ground, that the calves may lie dry, here with a fork clean out the litter, and where you perceive the runs and haunts of the Rats lay the paste.—— Observe that no pigs or fowls get underneath, lest they pick it up.

In the HOG-STY.

In this place be very careful to make use of your spoon, and put the paste quite out of the reach of the hogs, as they will eat any thing they can come at.

In the STACKS of CORN.

If they stand on the ground, examine the bottom well all round, and if there are any runs or holes, make proper use of the spoon. Next looking on the sides, you will see holes gnawed through the thatch, in which, having got up by a ladder, make use of your

your spoon as before directed. Then get up to the ridge, where, opening it slightly, you will find a run from one end to the other. Here lay bits all the way along, about a yard apart. Then close again the ridge with your hand very nicely throughout, to prevent the wet from getting in, which will spoil the paste. It is very customary to have

ponds near the barns, or stack-yards, and very often there are large elm-trees hanging over them ; examine well the roots of the trees, where these Rats chiefly resort, and the holes in the banks near the pond-side, and there put a bit of the paste in each hole, agreeably to the Directions already given.

DIRECTIONS

FOR THE

HOUSE MOUSE.

THIS Mouſe moſt commonly reſorts to thoſe places where the victuals are kept, and where for many years I have uſed my paſte in deſtroying it : but of late I have diſcovered an effectual method of.

E 4

taking.

taking it without poison. Examine the pantry or closet well; and where you see the holes the Mice come in at, take a bit of list about two inches wide, and a foot long, and spread it well with bird-lime; then take two small tacks, and tack each end of the list, and, to your great surprise, you will find every Mouse that puts its foot thereon will stick fast.

This

This do in the evening at every hole you can find, and in the morning look for the Mice.

This is a safe and sure method of taking these Mice in all offices where books and writings are kept ; wherein they do great prejudice by gnawing such books and writings to make their nests. Following, therefore, the method
above

above pointed out, and giving proper attendance, you may take them all.

N. B. I have taken nine Mice on one bit of list; so that if every gentleman in possession of this book, and belonging to such offices, would give the necessary Directions to those persons who are constantly employ-
ed

ed in them, they would
soon be cleared of the
whole tribe of Mice which
infest them.

DE

DIRECTIONS

FOR THE

FIELD MOUSE.

IF these Mice should infest your house, pantries, dairies, &c. take them with the list and bird-lime, after the manner prescribed for the House Mice. — But if you find them in the gardens among your pease, beans, &c. take
bits

bits of old cloth, each about four inches square, and having spread them well with bird-lime, lay as many of them as you think necessary on the rows or drills. Whenever the Mice come and stick a foot on these bits of cloth, thus spread with bird-lime, they will be rolled up therein, and may be found near the place where you put the same.

same. Observe to put the bits of cloth in the direct line in which the pease or beans are planted. If the sparrows or chaffinches should come upon the cloth, they will share the same fate as the Mice.—Mind to fix upon a dry night for this business.

DIRECTIONS

FOR

Taking RATS alive.

I AM no friend to taking Rats alive, in which there is very little satisfaction; for if you catch two in one place you will draw three from others, the bait being of course

course very enticing. That which I have always made use of is prepared as follows :

Take the nut of a bullock's liver well boiled ; get a good handful of the crumb of bread, and crumble the liver and the bread as finely as possible ; then taking a pint of wheat-meal from the mill, put it to the bread and the liver, add a quarter of a pound of lump
sugar

fugar pounded very finely, and drop seven drops of the oil of carraways: then rub the whole well together in a bowl, and bait your traps. Observe to tie your trap up with a string wound round the stand, leaving four inches room at each fall, that the rats may go in and out at will for one night only: the next night set your traps for

F catching,

catching, and what you catch take out directly, by the help of a small cage set to one end ; and be careful to lift up the fall but just high enough to let the Rat run out into the cage.

N. B. Gentlemen who buy this book, may, by sending to the Author at Greenwich, for half a crown each

trap

trap and cage, be properly furnished with them ; and whoever comes for the same, will be duly instructed how to set them.

T H E
ORIGINAL RECEIPT
FOR MAKING
SWAINE'S PASTE.

T A K E a deep glazed pan that will hold about two quarts, and put therein a pound of white arsenic in powder. Pour into a tin pot a tea-cup full of water, adding thereto half a pound
of

of lump sugar ; stir this with a stick about a foot long and as big as your thumb, over the fire, till the sugar is all dissolved, and the water just boils up: then put this water and sugar into the pan to the arsenic, and stir the same well together with the stick. This done, take some wheat-meal from a mill just as it is ground, put it to the above, and stir

the whole well with your stick as long as you can ; then apply your hands to it, and knead it together as stiff as you can work it. Make of the whole three balls ; put each ball into a dry bladder, and tie them up for use.

N. B. If it should happen that you cannot get fresh-ground meal, make use of
oatmeal

oatmeal and flour, of each an equal quantity, which will answer the same purpose.

Be very careful to wash your hands quite clean after you have made the Paste; and be sure also to keep it out of the reach of children. Desperate evils require desperate remedies.

N. B. This Paste is of the greatest use to gardeners in destroying Rats and Mice in cucumber frames or mushroom beds ; and many have applied to me for some from a great distance. It must be put in the frames on tileshods , near the plants ; and when the mushroom beds are uncovered, bits should be put
into

into each hole, as before mentioned.

SWAINE'S PASTE

Would also be extremely beneficial to all gentlemen who have plantations in the sugar islands in the West Indies (as can be well attested) ; for the Rats abound there in great numbers among the canes. Those gentlemen, therefore, who

who shall please to encourage the Author by sending over some of these books, may be assured of receiving ample compensation for their trouble and expence.

For the better satisfaction of the Reader in regard to the efficacy of the above Paste, I shall subjoin an account of the Rats I have destroyed on board his Majesty's
ships

ships of war, which appear
by certificate to be as follow :

Ships Names.	No. of Rats produced.
Prince of Wales	1015
Marlborough	324
Dragon	146
Defence	132
Union	36
Warspite	146
Portland	22
Diligente	665
Essex	127
Guay Trouin	186
Prince William	66
Dreadnought	30
Monarca	167.
	Fur-

Ships Names.	No. of Rats produced.
Furnace	22
Dock-yard	329
Union	92
Modeste	27
Duke	415
Lion	212
Fortune	156
Milford	97
Raifonable	131
Dreadnought	17
Victory	171
Portland	106
Modeste	139
Milford	75
Cabot Sloop	156
Prothée	17
Raleigh	104
	Firm

Ships Names.	No. of Rats produced.
Firm	92
Bellona	107
Effex	76
Duc de Chartres	197
Monsieur	78
Diligente	104
Porto Sloop	47
Nonfuch	286
Parfifax	161
Tortoise	39
Aid	240
Antelope	63
Bedford	475
Spy Tender	147
Duke	2475
Union	163
La Prudente	104
	Di-

Ships Names.	No. of Rate produced.
Diligente	141
Lynx	43
Lioness	174
Portland	69
Tartar	96
Grafton	214
Griffin Cutter	19
Hector	36
Navy Transport	57
Aurora	249
Hyena	194
Pegasus	69
Scout	176
Bellona	183
Achilles	704
Defence	163
Berwick	98
	Albe-

Ships Names.	No. of Rats produced.
Albemarle	116
Lancaster	74
Victory	96
Modeste	174
Panther	163
Buffalo	705
Jackall Cutter	59
Maidstone	64
Medway	72
Preston	198
Flora	19
La Nymphe	108
Orpheus	252
Pallas	119
Proteus	79

The

To conclude, I am thoroughly persuaded, that gentlemen of landed property, by making a present of this book to their tenants, would do much benefit to themselves in preserving the buildings upon their estates, and to their tenants in preserving their stock.

F I N I S.

H.M.S. DUKE.

2nd rate. 90 guns.

launched in 1773.

with Rodney against

de Grasse at Les Saintes,

12 April, 1782.

In her later days a

lazaret-ship.

Broken up in 1843.

(from the Admiralty

MS. books)

